

Price Differential Meeting

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland on April 11 announced that a meeting will be held on May 5 to hear recommendations on the 1976-crop peanut price support differentials. Price differentials are factors that allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture to take into account differences in value between types and grades of peanuts when making loans to producers.

Sec. Bergland said that he is calling on representatives of the nation's peanut farmers and the peanut industry to convene prior to the meeting to work out a unified recommendation to be presented at the May 5 session. The collective recommendation should be fair to all producers, shellers, manufacturers, and consumers alike, he advised.

The meeting will begin at 9 A.M. in the Jefferson Auditorium, USDA's South Building, and will be open to the public. After the industry recommendation has been presented, the meeting will be opened to discussion from the floor.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on April 18 announced that the price support levels for eligible kinds of tobacco will be about 7.3 per cent above those in effect last year. The 1977 support prices, by kind, and comparable 1976 rates are as follows:

- Flue-Cured, Types 11-14 — 1977 crop — 113.8 1976 Crop — 106.0.
- Burley, Type 31 — 1977 Crop — 117.3 1976 Crop — 109.3.
- Virginia Fire-Cured, Type 21 — 1977 Crop — 79.5 1976 Crop — 74.1.
- Kentucky-Tennessee Fire-Cured, Types 22-23 — 1977 Crop — 79.5 1976 Crop — 74.1.
- Dark Air-Cured, Types 35-36 — 1977 Crop — 70.7 1976 Crop — 65.9.
- Virginia Sun-Cured, Type 37 — 1977 Crop 70.7 1976 Crop — 65.9.
- Cigar Binder, Types 51-52 — 1977 Crop — 81.2 1977 Crop — 75.6.
- Cigar Filler & Binder, Types 42-44 — 1977 Crop — 58.6 1976 Crop — 54.6.
- Puerto Rican, Type 46 — 1977 Crop — 60.9 1976 Crop — 56.7.

Current legislation requires that price support be made available for those kinds of tobacco for which producers have approved marketing quotas. The law requires that the levels of support for those kinds of tobacco be determined by first calculating the ratio of the average index of prices for 1959 (298). This ratio (2.05) is then multiplied by the 1959 support level for each kind of tobacco to determine the 1977 support level. In 1976, support prices were 191 per cent of the 1959 prices; for 1977, support prices are 205 per cent of 1959.

USDA also announced it is evaluating all aspects of the tobacco program and invited the public to assist in the evaluation through written comment. Comments must be received by the Department no later than May 20.

Among other items, USDA

is considering continuing to make price support available through loans to producer associations.

Written comments should be submitted to the Director, Tobacco and Peanut Division, USDA-ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. Comments received will be made available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Director, Room 5750 of USDA's South Building.

Price support programs for tobacco are administered by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service through contracts with producer associations.

N. C. Board of Transportation Meeting Monday

RALEIGH — The N.C. Board of Transportation will hold its May meeting Monday.

The meeting will be held at 2 P.M. in the Board Room of the Highway Building, New Bern and Wilmington streets here.

The transportation policy group, among other matters, will consider approval of funds for a number of specific statewide primary and urban projects, and will consider approval for contract highway construction bids to be opened during a bid letting scheduled for tomorrow.

Department of Transportation officials expect to receive bids during the April 26 letting for 21 different highway improvement projects, including an eight-mile resurfacing job on I-85 in Mecklenburg County.

District 4-H Horse Show

A Northeast District 4-H Horse Show will be held on May 7 at the Circle M Saddle Club Arena in Williamston beginning at 9:30 A.M.

There are 50 classes consisting of Western Game and Pleasure classes and English Pleasure and Hunt classes.

Edenton 4-H Horse Club members interested in attending are to meet at the Chowan County Office Building at 8 A.M. on the showdate. If there is enough participation, a bus will be taken to the showgrounds. There will be a fee according to the number in attendance. All members and guests are invited to attend.

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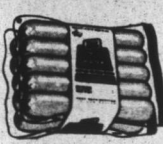


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